THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The textile industry accounts for about 14% of manufacturing value added. It contributes to about one-third of India's export earnings and provides direct employment to about 38 million persons.

(b) The Ministry of Textiles has launched a Technolgy Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for textile and jute industries with the purpose of providing funds at competitive rates of interest to improve technology level of the textile industry. The Government has also launched a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) to improve production, productivity and quality of cotton. Besides, Government has initiated schemes for modernisation of loomage and providing training facilities in various Powerloom Service Centres for the benefit of powerloom sector. Various schemes for providing design support and development to the textile sector have also been initiated by the Government.

Promoting Production in cotton mills

3515. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to promote the production in cotton mills in the country particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Government have taken several steps to promote the production in cotton mills in the country, including Assam. Some of these are as follows:—

(i) Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the Textile and Jute Industries, which is in operation since 1-4-1999 for a period of 5 years. Government funding is limited to reimbusement of interest at 5 per cent point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme.

(ii) In order to increase the productivity and quality of cotton, the Government has launched a Cotton Technology Mission on Cotton Development, with objectives of research, dissemination of technology to farmers, improvement in marketing infrastructure and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing Factories. It would facilitate the availability of good quality of cotton as raw material.

(iii) In order to improve the viability and competitiveness of textile industry, efforts are on to rationalise fiscal duty structure in consultation with industry and other concerned organisation.

(iv) The Textile Sector has, *inter-alia*, been extended the facility of concessional rate of import duty @ 5% under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme.

(v) Upgradation through appropriate training programmes, providing comprehensive testing facility through network of laboratories.

(vi) The Government has placed all the textile fibre/yarn under O.G.L. to augment the availability of such fibre/yarn to the textile mills.

Export of Textile items

3516. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minsiter of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of exporting cloth, ready made garments, cotton yarn and cotton during the last five years and till-date;

(b) The details of foreign exchange earned from the export of these items during this period, year-wise and item-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The year-wise and item-wise details of exports of readymade garment, cotton yarn and cotton fabrics have been as under:—

(*Figures in Million US$*)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Readymade Garment	4453.3	4762.1	4910.7	5268.4	5524.5
Cotton Fabrics	1022.61	1104.20	1111.66	1100.73	1094.28
Cotton Yarn	1004.53	1510.93	1571.46	1415.40	1541.05

The exports of raw cotton for the last five cotton year (October-September) have been as under:—

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-200 (upto 24.2.2000)
Quantity (in lakh bales)	8.40	16.82	3.4937	1.01253	0.13738
Value (In Rs. crores)	1010.52	1655.00	316.85	86.7162	11.1759